1. The airlines are not able to maintain their schedule due to operational/ commercial/ technical reason, 2. Bunching of flights, 3. Weather below minimum, 4. Weather phenomenon like thunderstorm, dust storm, fog, heavy rains etc. 5. Delayed flights have cumulative effects on subsequent flights, 6. Preference of airlines to operate during prime time.

(b) Following steps have been taken to improve the situation:

Construction of new high speed exit taxi-ways, establishment of Clearance Delivery Position and ATC Automation System at Delhi and Mumbai airports; construction of third runway at Delhi airport, parallel taxi track and installation of Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) at Delhi airport; simultaneous use of runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports; beginning of runways 32 and 27 have been joined by constructing new taxi track at Mumbai airport to reduce runway occupancy time; improved ATC procedures have been framed; upgradation of Kolkata airport to CAT II ILS; at the time of slot allocation schedule arrival and departure time are spread to avoid bunching; freezing of number of hourly movements of flights at Mumbai and Delhi airports and imposition of ban on general aviation aircraft during peak period at Mumbai airport.

Easing of investment rules in aviation sector

126. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private carriers are advocating easing of investment rules to allow their foreign peers to pick stake in domestic carriers;

(b) if so, whether the Air India has strongly opposed of such move;

(c) if so, whether Government has undertaken comprehensive review of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government on the move of the Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such representation received from the Air India on change in FDI policy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airline is at preliminarily stage.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign stakes in domestic airlines

127. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any panel to look into foreign airlines stake proposal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would allow to pick up 25 per cent stake in domestic market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The proposal to allow foreign airlines to invest in domestic airlines is at a preliminarily stage.

Proposal for Air Kerala

128. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal to operate a Budget Airline 'Air Kerala'.

(b) if so, what are the conditions pertaining to the operation of international flights;

(c) whether Government would consider relaxing the condition considering the ownership as the State Government; and

(d) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Though no proposal for formation of any airline by the name 'Air Kerala' is pending with the Government for clearance, the Government of Kerala had informed that a public limited company, 'Air Kerala International Services Limited' has been registered as a Special Purpose Vehicle for a budget airline project. Government of Kerala requested this Ministry for exemption to the proposed airline from the stipulated conditions relating to fleet size and the length of operation in the domestic sector for an airline to be considered for international operations. This request was not considered in the light of the existing Government Policy regarding the minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft and experience of 5 years continuous operations in domestic sector for permitting an Indian scheduled carrier to operate international services.

Implementation of APIS

129. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to implement an Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) making it mandatory for carriers flying into the country to transmit key passenger information including the background of the passenger before their flight take off for Indian destination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some international carriers have expressed reservation about his Ministry's requirement of the format in which the data is to be transmitted and have asked to re-examine the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) at